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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1984

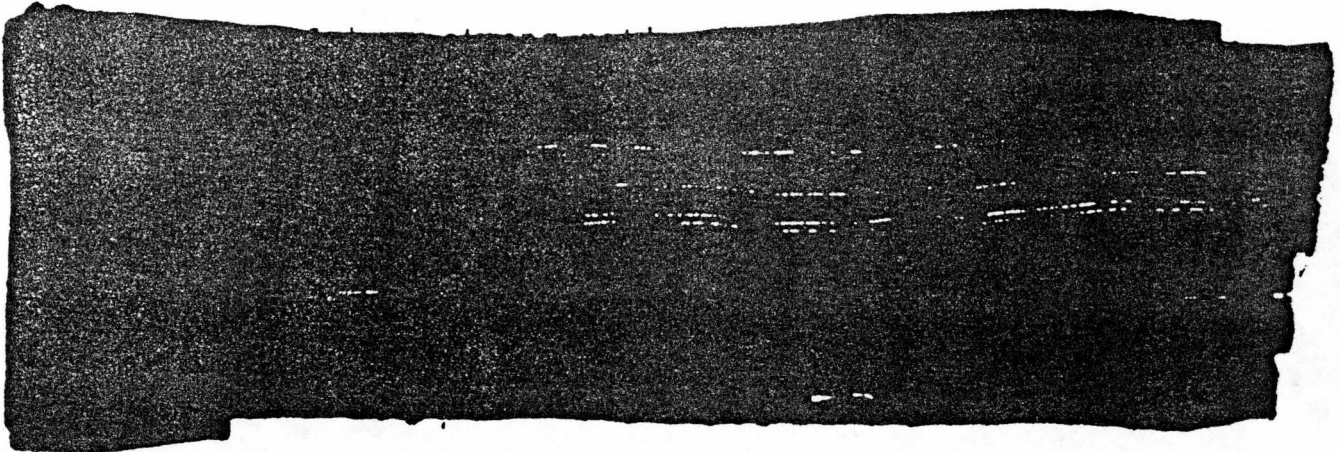
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National Security
Study Directive 8-84

U.S. Policy Towards Malta (S) 1

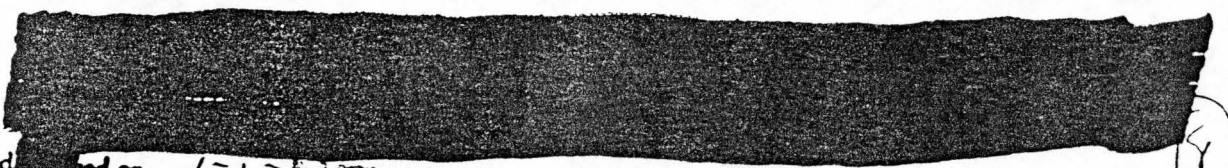
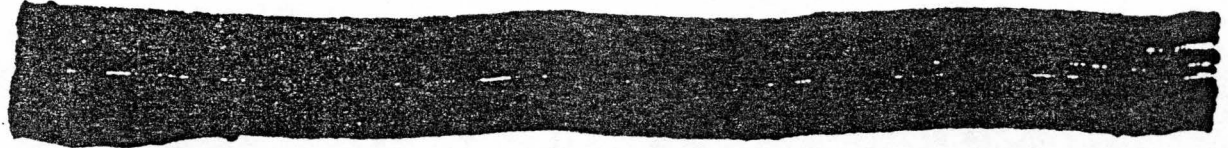
Long-term trends in Malta may push this fragile democracy in a direction that could be detrimental to the strategic interests of the U.S. and our NATO Allies. A concerted Soviet effort over the last five years to increase Soviet presence and acquire influence in the Mediterranean has produced tangible results: a Soviet Embassy established in 1981, a fuel-bunkering agreement the same year, an active cultural exchange program, and an agreement to increase trade. In addition, Malta, under Prime Minister Mintoff, has expanded ties with Libya, the PLO, and East European countries. (S)



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b) (1)
(S)

We need a more thorough analysis of the problem and its implications, addressing the following issues:

- What are our basic interests in Malta, and how important are these?



5 USC
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Partially Declassified based on 1-15-2013
under provisions of E.O. 12356
By J. Saunders, National Security Council

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- What are the principal economic and political trends in Malta and what impact will these have on our interests?
- How effective have our policies been, what principles should guide us in the future, and what levers do we have for influencing events in Malta. Specifically, should we consider providing economic or security assistance?
- What role can the Allies play, and what is the best way to coordinate an effective policy toward Malta?
- What are the objectives of the opposition party and how does it view Malta's future, particularly concerning the elections scheduled for 1986? What should the U.S. position be toward the opposition party in our efforts to advance U.S. objectives? (S)

A paper should be prepared, under State's direction, for SIG Foreign Policy review no later than January 18, 1985. (U)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:


Robert C. McFarlane

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